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H. CON. RES. 100

Urging the President to redirect United States foreign assistance policies and spending priorities toward promoting sustainable development, especially the reduction of global hunger and poverty in environmentally sound ways.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 1993

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. MFUME, Mr. PENNY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MCCLOSKEY, Mr. EDWARDS of California, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. TORRICELLI, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FINGERHUT, Mr. WHEAT, and Mrs. MINK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the President to redirect United States foreign assistance policies and spending priorities toward promoting sustainable development, especially the reduction of global hunger and poverty in environmentally sound ways.

Whereas the post-Cold War world is one of tremendous human deprivation in which more than one-fifth of humanity exists in poverty, living a life of hunger, illness, and illiteracy;

Whereas tens of thousands of children in the developing world die each day, many of them from preventable dis-

eases, and millions of other children are disabled or blind as a result of malnutrition;

Whereas poor people are victims of and contributors to environmental degradation—victims insofar as they are disproportionately exposed to pollution and toxic and radioactive wastes, and contributors insofar as they accelerate processes such as deforestation and soil erosion in their fight for survival on marginal lands;

Whereas poverty-related conditions foster rapid population growth, which in turn exacerbates pressures on land and other natural resources, worsens unemployment, and strains government services;

Whereas in recent decades, the income gap between richest and poorest countries has widened, due in part to the large accumulated debt of many developing countries, with many countries now paying more in debt service than they receive in assistance and investment;

Whereas this debt and the resulting economic adjustments have taken their heaviest toll on the poor, especially women, in the form of higher food prices, reduced health care, education, housing, and other social services, and higher unemployment;

Whereas poverty-related conditions of hunger, illiteracy, disease, and environmental degradation pose a serious threat to the economic and physical security of the United States and the world;

Whereas such conditions impede economic growth, undermine new democracies, fuel political instability within countries and across regions, foster displacement and massive migration, allow the spread of acquired immune deficiency

syndrome (AIDS) and other epidemics, and damage the environment;

Whereas the United States therefore has a direct self-interest in promoting development that will avert such threats;

Whereas the United States has historically been a leader in providing assistance in response to humanitarian emergencies;

Whereas United States development cooperation has made valuable contributions to sustainable development (including increases in life expectancy and reductions in infant and child mortality) through bilateral programs, including selected programs of the Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, and public foundations such as the Inter-American Foundation, the African Development Foundation, and Appropriate Technology International, and through contributions to United Nations organizations and programs;

Whereas some United States development cooperation efforts have failed to respond adequately to the needs of poor people and the environment or have even contributed to environmental degradation and to impoverishment;

Whereas the easing of Cold War tensions requires a reassessment of United States foreign assistance objectives, programs, and spending priorities, and presents a unique opportunity to shift the emphasis from military and security-related priorities to addressing the urgent and inter-related problems of poverty and environmental destruction;

Whereas a global consensus on the need for and on strategies for achieving equitable, sustainable, and participatory development has emerged through several decades of devel-

opment experience and through international meetings on nutrition, environment, children, and women;

Whereas United States citizens have historically demonstrated strong support for humanitarian and sustainable development programs of the United States Government—when they are confident that assistance reaches poor people and communities;

Whereas United States citizens make generous private contributions to nongovernmental organizations that engage in international relief and sustainable development activities;

Whereas nongovernmental organizations, both in the United States and in developing countries, are often highly qualified actors in promoting grassroots development, strengthening civil society, and providing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas only 1 percent of the United States Government budget is spent on foreign assistance, and only approximately 25 percent of that amount goes toward programs focused on sustainable development and humanitarian needs; and

Whereas since the mid-1980s, resources have begun to shift within the foreign assistance budget toward increased expenditures for humanitarian and sustainable development programs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Many Neigh-
5 bors, One Earth Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRO-**
2 **GRAM OF ACTION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is urged to develop
4 and implement a coordinated economic and development
5 policy and program of action designed to promote broad-
6 based, sustainable development that will reduce global
7 hunger and poverty in environmentally sound ways.

8 (b) PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES.—This policy and pro-
9 gram of action should have as principal objectives the fol-
10 lowing 4 elements of sustainable development, which are
11 interrelated and mutually reinforcing:

12 (1) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.—Expanding
13 economic opportunities for all women and men, espe-
14 cially the poor, to increase their productivity, earn-
15 ing capacity, and income in ways that do not harm
16 the environment.

17 (2) BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.—Meeting the basic
18 human needs for food, clean water, shelter, health
19 care, and education necessary for all people to be
20 productive and to improve their quality of life.

21 (3) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUS-
22 TAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES.—Promot-
23 ing environmental protection and sustainable use of
24 land, water, forests, and other natural resources,
25 taking into account the needs of present and future
26 generations.

1 (4) PLURALISM, DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION,
 2 AND HUMAN RIGHTS.—Promoting pluralism, demo-
 3 cratic participation in economic and political deci-
 4 sions that affect people’s lives (especially participa-
 5 tion by poor men and women), and respect for
 6 human and civil rights, including the rights of fe-
 7 males and indigenous peoples.

8 (c) ALL RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERN-
 9 MENT TO BE INCLUDED.—This policy and program of ac-
 10 tion should involve all relevant international activities of
 11 the United States Government, including—

- 12 (1) bilateral economic assistance programs;
- 13 (2) contributions to international and multilat-
 14 eral development agencies and institutions;
- 15 (3) policies concerning international agricul-
 16 tural, environmental, health, energy, trade, debt, and
 17 monetary issues; and
- 18 (4) foreign military assistance programs.

19 (d) SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.—In further-
 20 ance of this policy and program of action, the President
 21 is urged to do the following:

- 22 (1) Propose the enactment of legislation provid-
 23 ing for a post-Cold War foreign assistance program
 24 that would have as its primary purpose the pro-
 25 motion of sustainable development, especially the re-

1 duction of hunger and poverty in environmentally
2 sound ways, and that would incorporate the 4 objec-
3 tives set forth in subsection (b).

4 (2) Develop and implement development co-
5 operation programs and projects in pursuit of the 4
6 objectives set forth in subsection (b).

7 (3) Ensure that activities carried out pursuant
8 to this policy and program of action build on com-
9 munity-based initiatives, wherever possible, and in-
10 vigate local community-based development, espe-
11 cially the role of women in development.

12 (4) Ensure that development cooperation pro-
13 grams take into account the relevant local-level per-
14 spectives of the rural and urban poor (including
15 women, minorities and indigenous people) during the
16 design, planning, and implementation process for
17 project and program assistance. Toward this objec-
18 tive, the agency primarily responsible for administer-
19 ing such assistance should consult closely with, and
20 should involve directly in program and project deci-
21 sionmaking (especially at the identification and de-
22 sign stages), indigenous and United States-based
23 nongovernmental organizations that have dem-
24 onstrated effectiveness in or commitment to the pro-

1 motion of community-based development on behalf of
2 sustainable development in developing countries.

3 (5) Provide government-to-government assist-
4 ance only to countries that exhibit a commitment to
5 development that promotes the 4 objectives set forth
6 in subsection (b) through relevant sectoral and na-
7 tional policies, with priority given to countries with
8 the highest incidence of hunger and poverty. In
9 countries where relevant sector or national policies
10 are clearly unfavorable to poor people or where the
11 government engages in patterns of gross violation of
12 internationally recognized human rights, United
13 States Government assistance should be provided
14 only through nongovernmental organizations.

15 (6) Give special priority to developing and im-
16 plementing policies and programs that give primary
17 benefit to the households of the absolute poor, tak-
18 ing steps to ensure that all members of such house-
19 holds benefit, including women and female children.

20 (7) Encourage and support the efforts of coun-
21 tries to reduce their level of military spending when
22 such spending is disproportionate to security needs
23 and disproportionate to spending on health, edu-
24 cation, and environmental protection.

1 (8) Exercise leadership in building the global
2 commitment and cooperation necessary for countries
3 to make significant progress toward the goals adopt-
4 ed at the 1992 International Conference on Nutri-
5 tion, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Envi-
6 ronment and Development, the 1990 World Summit
7 for Children, and the 1985 World Conference on
8 Women. United States development cooperation ef-
9 forts should assist countries to establish national
10 priorities, formulate national strategies, and build
11 institutional and technical capacity directed toward
12 the attainment of these global goals, through proc-
13 esses that invite broad public participation.

14 (9) Enter into negotiations with highly indebted
15 poor countries that are committed to sustainable de-
16 velopment on reducing the debt owed by such coun-
17 tries to the United States Government, and, when-
18 ever possible, structure debt reduction (including
19 debt swaps) to support their sustainable develop-
20 ment strategies.

21 (10) Develop and propose an effective system of
22 evaluation and accountability for programs and
23 projects of development cooperation, resulting in re-
24 ports to the Congress on their effectiveness in fur-
25 thering the 4 objectives set forth in subsection (b),

1 including assessment of strategies adopted to achieve
2 the objectives. Independent assessments conducted
3 by nongovernmental representatives in the United
4 States and recipient countries that have dem-
5 onstrated effectiveness in local, community-based de-
6 velopment should be an integral part of the system
7 of evaluation and accountability.

8 (11) Examine the necessity of restructuring or
9 replacing the Agency for International Development
10 in order to have an effective bilateral development
11 cooperation program that can achieve the 4 objec-
12 tives set forth in subsection (b). Whatever agency is
13 primarily responsible for administering assistance
14 under such program should be insulated from undue
15 influence from short-term, nondevelopmental inter-
16 ests.

17 (12) Give greater attention to linking emer-
18 gency relief efforts to conflict resolution, rehabilita-
19 tion, and longer-term development activities. The ca-
20 pability of the United States military to provide ap-
21 propriate logistical, transportation, and engineering
22 support in emergencies should be assessed, and a
23 formal coordination link established if appropriate.

1 (13) Maintain or expand, relative to fiscal year
2 1993 levels, budgets and expenditures for emergency
3 and developmental food assistance.

4 (14) Propose that for each of fiscal years 1994
5 through 1997 no less than the fiscal year 1993 level
6 of \$7,000,000,000 be provided for nonfood economic
7 assistance, including multilateral economic assist-
8 ance, development assistance, assistance from the
9 Development Fund for Africa, assistance to the
10 independent states of the former Soviet Union and
11 to Eastern Europe, and other bilateral economic as-
12 sistance.

13 (15) Using the funds allocated for nonfood eco-
14 nomic assistance pursuant to paragraph (14), in-
15 crease assistance from the level of approximately
16 \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1993 to no less than
17 \$3,700,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1994
18 through 1997 for the following international and bi-
19 lateral organizations, programs, and projects that ef-
20 fectively serve humanitarian needs and sustainable
21 development objectives:

22 (A) Voluntary contributions to United Na-
23 tions organizations and programs.

24 (B) International disaster assistance.

1 (C) Migration and refugee assistance and
2 emergency migration and refugee assistance.

3 (D) The Peace Corps.

4 (E) Government-funded foundations, in-
5 cluding the African Development Foundation,
6 the Inter-American Foundation, and Appro-
7 priate Technology International.

8 (F) The Development Fund for Africa.

9 (G) Those programs and projects funded
10 from the appropriations accounts for “Develop-
11 ment Assistance” and special initiatives that di-
12 rectly serve at least one of the four objectives
13 set forth in subsection (b), including programs
14 and projects involving small-scale appropriate
15 technology, micro and small enterprise credit,
16 farming system design and extension, technical
17 and management training, food security, pri-
18 mary health care, infectious disease control, nu-
19 trition, basic education, child survival, low-in-
20 come housing, potable water, basic sanitation,
21 infrastructure for meeting basic human needs,
22 environmental protection, energy efficiency, sus-
23 tainable agriculture and fisheries, sustainable
24 forest and water management, natural resource
25 conservation, pollution control, community-

1 based media and communication, human rights,
2 women's rights, civic processes, and voluntary
3 cooperation.

4 Increases in funding for such organizations, pro-
5 grams, and projects should be achieved by reallocat-
6 ing funds within the bilateral economic assistance
7 budget and by shifting funds from security assist-
8 ance programs.

9 (16) Direct that no less than \$2,500,000,000 of
10 the amount of assistance called for in paragraph
11 (15) be used for sustainable development and hu-
12 manitarian needs in developing countries.

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